Mayor Mallory's Message for the Week, October 9, 2006

Cincinnati draws strength from its heritage

In Cincinnati, we have a long history of celebrating our rich cultural heritage. At the turn of the century, Cincinnati was a thriving river town that was one of the largest commercial centers in the Midwest. Our city developed its cultural identity during those years, and even today you can see that heritage all over the city, from our historic architecture to our core values of hard work and community.

The Tall Stacks Music, Arts, and Heritage Festival brought several hundred thousand people to our riverfront to celebrate our heritage as a river town. Citizens from all over the tri-state came together to enjoy the beautiful riverboats, talk to the actors in period costumes, and enjoy the energetic and spirited music. The event also featured Clydesdales, children's games, fireworks and plenty of good food.

We do not need an event this big to give us a reason to come together as a community. This Saturday, we celebrate the opening of the ultimate community gathering place in the heart of our city – Fountain Square. Since long before the days of WKRP in Cincinnati, Fountain Square has been our most recognizable landmark. Set in the center of our downtown, Fountain Square has always been the place we come together as a community whether to celebrate Octoberfest, or a World Series Championship.

Saturday, we celebrate the $42 million facelift on the square. The transformation will increase pedestrian access to the square and open up more public space. These changes will make Fountain Square the premier community square in our region. The new design will allow for increased areas for public programming and community entertainment options.

The new Fountain Square will be the public focal point of our city. It will draw people from diverse backgrounds from all over our city together with our neighbors from all over the region to a central location where we can enjoy each other and celebrate what it means to be a Cincinnatian.